(c) Additional quota is released proportionately to all the State Haj Committees including Karnataka having more applications than their allotted quota, depending on the number of seats surrendered by the State Haj Committees receiving lesser applications than the quota allotted to them.

Indo-Bangladesh bilateral relations

4187. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Bangladesh Prime Minister scotched the reports about her disposition to visit India soon to discuss and sort out bilateral issues including the border issue, Bangladesh Government had indicated readiness to have border talks in May end; and

(b) the outcome thereof, indicating the disputed areas under the so called "adverse possession" forming the bone of contention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Government did not receive any proposal from Government of Bangladesh regarding a visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in May, 2001. At the invitation of the Government of India, a Bangladesh delegation visited New Delhi from June 11–14, 2001 and the terms of reference for two Joint Boundary Working Groups were finalized to address the issues of border demarcation, enclaves and adversely possessed territories.

Visit of Bill Clinton

4188. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the second visit of Mr. William Jefferson Bill Clinton, former President of the USA, to India during April this year;

(b) whether he held meetings/discussions with some top personalities and VVIPs in the country;

(c) if so, the details, gist and objectives thereof;

(d) whether Government have, by now, evaluated the achievements and benefits of his second visit; and

(e) if so, the quantum of relief that has been received by the earthquake-victims of Gujarat as a result of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Former U.S. President Bill Clinton paid a private visit to India from 3–10 April, 2001 as part of the delegation of the American India Foundation of which he is a Board member. The visit was in connection with rehabilitation and reconstruction in Gujarat in the aftermath of the earthquake.

(b) and (c) While in India, Mr. Clinton made a courtesy call on the Governor of Gujarat and interacted with the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In Calcutta, he met the Governor of West Bengal. In New Delhi, former President Clinton called on the Prime Minister to discuss rehabilitation efforts in Gujarat.

(d) The visit was a private one and its programme was organised by the American India Foundation. Government accorded due courtesies befitting a former Head of Government.

(e) Government is not aware of the quantum of relief that has been received by the earthquake victims of Gujarat, as the American India Foundation has not made its funds available to either the State or the Central Government.

Deputation as Haj Assistants

4189. MISS FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of Government employees on deputation as 'Haj Assistants' to Saudi Arabia;

(b) the number of employees deputed as 'Haj Assistants' during the last three years and proposed to be deputed for ensuring Haj 2002;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the number of Haj Assistants keeping in view of increasing number of pilgrims;

(d) whether it is a fact that Central Government have blacklisted officials of any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous bodies for non-consideration of selection as Haj Assistants; and

(e) if so, the norms for blacklisting them and names of such Organizations and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The criteria is that the applicant